

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26-61 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 25 are cancelled, claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26-32 are amended, and claims 33-61 are added. No new matter is added.

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous restriction requirement and examination of all claims 1-32.

In the Office Action, claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26-32 are amended for clarity and claims 33-61 are added.

Independent claims 1, 32 and 61 recite, *inter alia*:

... the thermoplastic material covers the insert at least in part, this insert also being configured such that the thermoplastic material forms a portion in relief on the inside of the tank by taking on at least part of the shape of the insert, said portion in relief enabling an attachment to be mounted inside the tank ...

Kasugai discloses a method for manufacturing a fuel tank of synthetic resin, comprising placing an insert member (7) within the tank (1) through a holding plate (6) of synthetic resin which is fixed and held so as to be grasped by the inner circumferential surface of the side wall (4) (see the specification, col. 3, lines 32-36). The Office Action merely asserts that the claimed methods would have been obvious in order to make the Kasugai device. However, there is no prima facie evidence establishing motivation to modify Kasugai's teachings to achieve the claimed invention and perform the recited method steps.

Kasugai does not disclose or suggest a method wherein the thermoplastic material covers the insert at least in part, the insert also being configured such that the thermoplastic material forms a portion in relief on the inside of the tank by taking on at least part of the shape of the insert, said portion in relief enabling an attachment to be mounted inside the tank as claimed.

Because each and every feature is not taught or suggested, Kasugai cannot anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in claims 1, 32 and 61.

As such, claims 1, 32 and 61 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 29-31 recite, *inter alia*, a fuel tank comprising a wall of thermoplastic material overmolded on at least one insert, the wall covering the insert forming a portion in relief enabling an attachment to be mounted ..., said portion in relief comprising a housing suitable for receiving at least a portion of the attachment.

No prima facie case of anticipation or obviousness is made in the Office Action regarding these claim features. The Office Action merely asserts the methods of manufacture would be obvious and materials and inserts would be selected for an intended use. This has no bearing on the specific structural recitations presented. Because each and every feature of claims 29-31 are not taught or suggested by Kasugai, claims 29-31 are deemed allowable over Kasugai. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 50 recites, *inter alia*, a method of mounting a mounting member on the wall of the tank ... said mounting member not being overmolded by the wall.

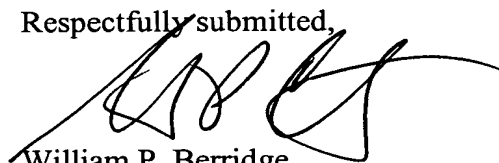
On the contrary, in Kasugai, the holding plate (6) is grasped by the inner circumferential surface of the side wall (4), as illustrated in Figure 1. Thus, Kasugai does not disclose or suggest a mounting member fixed on the wall of the tank without being overmolded by the wall.

Accordingly, Kasugai cannot anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in independent claim 50 or claims dependent therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, 14-24 and 26-61 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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